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Message Text

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PAGE 01 MUSCAT 01325 260933Z

21
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 SAM-01 ACDA-05 SCCT-01 /092 W
---------- 035653
R 260703Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1647
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
COMIDEASTFOR
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 1325

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, MU, IR, SY
SUBJECT: ADDED SIGNS OF FAST WINDUP OF DHOFAR WAR

1. COMMENTS MADE TO AMBASSADOR NOV. 25 BY BRIG. JOHN AKEHURST, COMMANDER OF DHOFAR BRIGADE, PROVIDED FURTHER INDICATION THAT SAF SEES MILITARY SIDE OF DHOFAR STRUGGLE ALL BUT WON NOW THAT AUTUMN OFFENSIVE HAS BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL. (DISCUSSION OCCURRED IN SALALAH, TO WHICH OMANGOV FLEW ALL MINISTERS, MANY ROYAL FAMILY MEMBERS AND ALL AMBASSADORS FROM MUSCAT TO ATTEND SULTAN'S OPENING OF ELABORATE NEW COLOR TV AND BROADCASTING FACILITIES THERE.)

2. AKEHURST SAID OMAN'S MILITARY ACTIONS OF PAST FIVE WEEKS HAVE PROVEN VASTLY MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN COULD HAVE BEEN DREAMED. HE SPOKE OF WAR AS ALL BUT OVER, THOUGH THERE MAY YET BE "ONE MORE BATTLE" TO ROUT REMAINING HARD-CORE REBEL FIGHTERS, WHICH HE ESTIMATED AT 130 IN NUMBER. OMANI/IRANIAN CASUALTIES HAD
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PAGE 02 MUSCAT 01325 260933Z

BEEN MUCH LIGHTER THAN EXPECTED. SO FAR THIS MONTH SAF HAS

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RECORDED ABOUT 65 SURRENDERED ENEMY PERSONNEL (SEP), EASILY A RECORD. ONE SIGNIFICANT SEP ON NOV. 23 WAS A PFLO FIGHTER TRAINED IN MOSCOW ON USE OF SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILES, AND HIS INTERROGATION IS PROVIDING USEFUL INFORMATION ON ENEMY USE AND DEPLOYMENT OF SAMS.

3. REGARDING SARFAYT (SIMBA) DEFENSIVE AREA NEAR PDRY BORDER, AKEHURST SAID SAF FEW DAYS AGO BEGAN DLIBERATE FIVE-DAY PAUSE IN ALL AERIAL AND ARTILLERY COUNTER-FIRE AGAINST CROSS-BORDER PDRY POSITIONS THAT DIRECT ARTILLERY SHELLS AGAINST SARFAYT. INTENTION IS TO SEE WHETHER BY THIS TACTIC PDRY MAY BE ENCOURAGED TO REDUCE OR CEASE ITS OWN ARTILLERY FIRE, ON THEORY THAT AT THIS STAGE SAF RETAILATION SHELLING AND BOMBING POSSIBLY ARE EGGING ON THE ENEMY AND THUS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE. DURING FIRST THREE DAYS OF THIS PAUSE, PDRY FIRING HAS DECREASED SIGNIFICANTLY EACH SUCCESSIVE DAY.

4. WE LEARNED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ZAWAWI SPENT NOV. 24-25 IN TEHRAN WHERE, ACCORDING TO IRANIAN AMBASSADOR ZAND, HE SAW THE SHAH. ZAND THOUGHT ONE TOPIC THEIR DISCUSSIONS PROBABLY WAS THE CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT IN ADEN OF IRANIAN HELICOPTER PILOT CAPTURED EARLY THIS FALL. ZAND SAID ADENIS SUGGESTED PRISONER EXCHANGE INVOLVING CERTAIN OMANGOV DETAINEES, BUT SULTAN QABOOS RESISTING THIS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COUNTERINSURGENCY, COMBAT OPERATIONS, DHOFAR WAR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MUSCAT01325
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750412-0528
From: MUSCAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975117/aaaaafva.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <04 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

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EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADDED SIGNS OF FAST WINDUP OF DHOFAR WAR
TAGS: MOPS, MU, IR, SY, (AKEHURST, JOHN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006